

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claim 45 has been canceled and Claims 1, 24, 38, 42-44, 46 and 49 have been amended. Claims 1, 4, 7, 24, 39, 42, 46, 47, 48 and 49 are independent.

Claims 9-17 were indicated in the November 4, 2003 Action to be allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication.

Claims 1-8 and 18-26 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, paragraph 5 of the Action indicates that the limitation "said method comprising" on line 4 and "generating a second table....comprising" renders the claim "vague". Claim 18 has similar recitations and was rejected on the same grounds.

Each of rejected independent Claims 1 and 18 has been carefully reviewed and amended to address the Examiner's concerns noted in the Action. Specifically for example, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the recited method for performing a table look-up operation....includes the steps of generating a second table, computing an index value z , extracting address bits..., and addressing the second table. The claim also recites further limiting steps defining the step of generating the second table, including generating a first data field...and generating a second data field. Claim 18 has been similarly amended to clarify the additional steps that further define the step of generating a first table having N entries and those of generating a second table having kN entries.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned representative was unable to arrange an interview with the Examiner to discuss the proposed claim amendments. If the Examiner believes that issues remain after consideration of the proposed amendments, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues.

It is respectfully submitted that in regard to the above amendment and accompanying remarks, that the application is in condition for allowance. Again, should the Examiner be of the

view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

2/4/04

Date

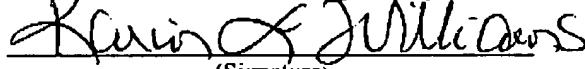
Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this document and any document referenced herein has been transmitted via facsimile to the US Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 746-7239 on February 4, 2004.

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